



Grace Notes December 2021 & January 2022

Our Mission Statement:
To know Christ & make Christ known
Grace Episcopal Church
106 Lowell St.
Manchester, NH





Illustration by Andrew Freshour

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A Farewell Message From The Reverend Mike Andres

For those of you who have not been to services at Grace over the last month, you may not be aware that I am no longer your deacon. Deacons report to the bishop and he or she can move deacons when they feel there is a need. Bishop Rob has reassigned me to St Paul's Episcopal Church in Concord.



It has been a pleasure serving as your deacon over the last three years and I will take many great memories with me. While I look forward to my new assignment and the new challenges, I am sad to be leaving here. I have enjoyed my time at Grace, and Grace has afforded me many things I wouldn't have received elsewhere and may not receive again. For example, I may never wear a dalmatic again. The fact that I was able to preach once a month is not something most deacons enjoy, and I thank Reverend Marjorie for that. It may be a long time before I "smoke the book" again, if at all (meaning when I used incense to bless and sanctify the gospel book before reading from it). Speaking of which, I will never forget my 1st Sunday here at Grace. It was the Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels. I had never used incense before, and Father Allan had to teach me how to swing the incense between services. I may never have my own office again. At one of our deacon meetings, right after Grace was broken into by thieves, I mentioned how my office was broken into, but nothing was taken. All of my peers looked at me and responded, "You have an office?" I have always been a high church person, and I will miss that too.



Most of all, I will miss all of you. I have gotten to know some of you well, others, not as well as I would have liked. You have all been great and welcoming to me and my family. I'm thankful for the friendship and mentoring I received from Reverend Marjorie, and the support of the Vestry. I will miss the great ministry of Laundry Love. Hopefully you will be able to start that up again soon.

Grace will always be a part of me and my family. In fact, Grace was already a part of my family even before I started serving here. Not many of you know this, but Pat and I attended Grace in the late 1980's and our second daughter was baptized here. So, Grace will always be a part of our family experience. I enjoyed leading the online Compline service and I'm thankful for those who joined me. It would be great if someone else within the parish could pick it up and keep it going. It doesn't have to be clergy; the service can be led by a lay person.

I know Grace will continue to be here for a long time to come. You have great pastoral leadership, a strong and caring Vestry, and many, many people who love this church and want to do God's work. I want to thank everyone for making my last service on Sunday, November 15th so special, especially those who helped with the coffee hour afterwards: Carol Boire, Nancy-Ann Feren, Teddi McIntosh, and Susan Tonnar. I would also like to thank everyone for the very generous check. It will be used to pay for my Fisher Cats ticket package for next season.

I will miss Grace, and all of you. Grace will always be in my prayers. I wish you all the best and may God Bless Grace Episcopal Church.

Thank you,
Deacon Mike

What's Your Name?

Some of you have heard me discuss this, but I like to revisit the subject from time to time.

It wasn't so long ago that I finally realized that those who work with the public in any capacity are real people. Some are part of a large family; others live alone. There are those who don't really have to work; and some who are working two or three jobs.

One might be carrying a heavy burden, while another is free of stress. With most, we may never know anything personal about them - where they live, their beliefs, political leanings, their sorrows, their dreams. But they all have something in common: a name.



I think of Harriet, a cashier at Hannaford. I know nothing about her, except she is always at register 8. She is pleasant, efficient, and knowledgeable. When she's not there, I worry. Fewer folks are wearing masks, and covid is present everywhere.

Joe is the young man who works at our town recycle/trash depot. His face lights up when he sees my car. Why? I call him by name and thank him for his help.

Debbie, at DMC, greets me by name when she signs me in each time. I do the same for her.

I've learned to read name tags, and I try to remember the name. Or, it's as easy as smiling, and asking, "What's *your name*?"

It's such a simple thing for us, but it can mean the world to someone else. It shows them that they aren't invisible, after all.

Jane W Van Zandt+

A Name

When Eve walked among
the animals and named them –
Nightingale, redshouldered hawk,
fiddler crab, fallow deer –
I wonder if she ever wanted
them to speak back, looked into
their wide wonderful eyes and
whispered, *Name me, name me.*

Ada Limon

Stewardship Message from Roger Bleau

This year we were blessed to hear from two remarkable parishioners during our Stewardship campaign. We shared the words from our first speaker, Julie Alig Scala, in last month's newsletter. This month we are honored to share the life, faith journey, and reflections of the wonderful Roger Bleau.

My name is Roger Bleau and I am a sinner. And I am grateful that I have found a faith community at Grace Episcopal Church.

I have always taken life seriously. I have never been cavalier. When I was growing up, I was always searching. Wondering what type of person, what character and virtues I would possess. Wondering what I was going to be, what kind of career would I end up with, and what kind of long-term relationship I

would develop. Of course, I fantasized being a Red Sox player, a doctor. I even contemplated becoming a priest. I figured working for God would be the best. But, when I spent an exploratory weekend at LaSalette high school seminary preparatory, I was disappointed. I thought that they were not pious enough. Too many pillow fights, water gun fights, etc.

So I grew up Catholic. To this day I admire, and respect nuns. They give up everything worldly to serve God.

I am here totally through God's grace. It would be ludicrous for me to have false pride for anything. I don't deserve any of the blessings that I have had all my life, including, but not limited to: my wife, my health, my family, and friends. My moral compass was mostly developed through the Catholic church.

Two observations: First, as Reverend Marjorie said in a recent homily, "Leo Buscaglia said: Your talent is God's gift to you. What you do with it is your gift back to God." Second, there but for the grace of God go I. I could have been born a completely different person: in a different era, a different country, born a different sex, a different religion. So I try to have understanding for every person I meet.

Although I did get a lot out of the Catholic Church, you may ask, "Why did I leave it?" It's precisely because, in my oldest daughter's second year of college she came out to me as a lesbian. At that time, I was homophobic. It took three years of reflection, therapy, and growing for me to accept and appreciate the LGBTQ community. So I was elated when the Supreme court legalized same sex marriage. I knew that it was good for my daughter. It gave her all kinds of rights that she did not have with the civil unions. I knew that it was liberating for millions of people.

However, the following Sunday the Catholic priest from the pulpit condemned the Supreme Court decision. That is when I



walked away from the Catholic church. I don't believe that Jesus would have abandoned people when He made them the way they are. I was searching for a different Christian church that would appreciate not only the LGBTQ community, but would accept and celebrate people where they were and as they are in their faith development.

After attending Mass at Grace for four weeks in a row. Sitting with my new friend Richard Gesner. Enjoying the organ playing, the singing, the homilies, and the ritual, including the communion rail, I decided to seal the deal.

I met with Reverend Marjorie in her office. I had personal issues as well that we discussed. Her welcoming me with open arms, without judging me, made me feel that I was loved and accepted. AS I WAS. It made me cry. It was a eureka moment. I found my home, here at Grace Episcopal Church. And I have enjoyed all of you. You are so welcoming, all that you do for others, like the Giving Tree, Food bank collections, Laundry Love, Bible Study, events for children, outreach to the community, Zoom masses. You are another blessing that I don't deserve. Thank you.

GEC Book Group Update

On Tuesday, November 16th at noon six members of our parish book group met on Zoom to discuss *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig. Book group members Jane Van Zandt and Renee Van Leuvan had both recommended this book to our group. The novel tells the story about a young woman named Nora Seed who has too many regrets about her own life and decisions she has made around family, career, marriage, and education. At the start of the book it is clear that Nora often wishes she had made different choices, taken other paths. Because she is disappointed in herself, Nora tries to end her own life, but is instead brought to a middle zone between life and death called "the midnight library." While she is at this place Nora can pull any book from the shelf, open it, and experience a life not lived that would have been a possible life for her. The result is a delightful journey of reading how Nora "tries on" different lives to see if she would fit better into another life voyage than the one she is already on.

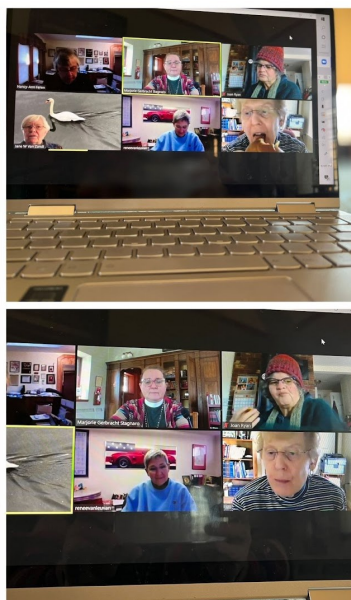
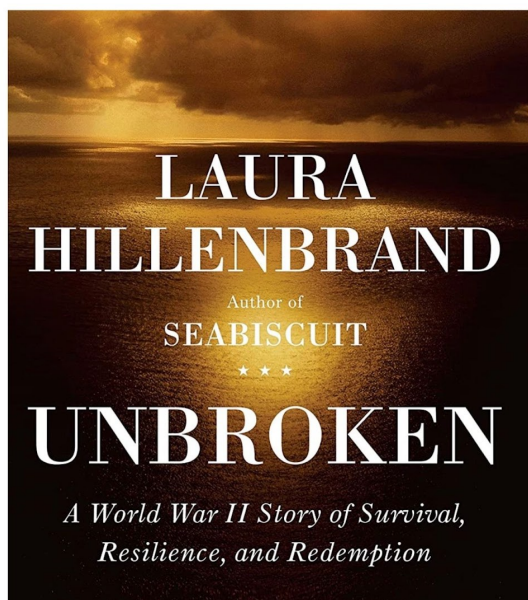
Jane Van Zandt always does such a wonderful job coming up with a list of quotes and questions from the plot of every book we read. This month some of those we discussed were:

- "Everyone's lives could have ended up in an infinite number of ways." What are your "what ifs"? Marriage, moving, friends, school, job?
- What choices have you made in the last week, month, year? Did any change the trajectory of your life?
- Silence can be: "Passive aggressive." Or, "We no longer have anything to

say.” Or, “Not needing to talk.” Is it uncomfortable? Peaceful?

- “It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see.” True?
- “There is no rejection; there is only redirection.” Is that true?
- “Never underestimate the big importance of small things.” Have you found that to be true in your life?

Our group continues to be a thoughtful, compassionate, tight knit group who not only talks about the book, but supports one another as we discuss challenges and relationships in our own lives. Nancy-Ann Feren observed that this particular novel felt lighter in a way than other books we had read at past meetings. Still this month's book choice resulted in a deep discussion about regrets and choices we have made over time.



Our next Zoom book group gathering will take place on Tuesday, December 21st at 12 noon. The book we will be discussing at that gathering will be *Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption* by Laura Hillenbrand. If you are interested in being sent the Zoom link for our next discussion please contact, Marjorie, Christine Stevens, or Jane Van Zandt.

Blessings and thanks,
Marjorie +

Christmas Poinsettias

This year the Grace Church Flower Ministry is resuming its tradition of decorating the church with Christmas poinsettias for your memorials and thanksgivings. If you would like to remember loved ones or blessings in your life, we are offering you this opportunity. We are suggesting a contribution of \$25, but any amount you care to donate is welcome.

To ensure that your memorial or thanksgiving is included in the Christmas service leaflets, please submit the text you would like printed no later than Wednesday, December 15, to Lyn Marino (or the church office) and send your donation to the church office (106 Lowell Street, Manchester NH 03101) with "Christmas flowers" clearly printed on the memo line of your check.



Christmas Services' Schedule

Christmas Eve Family/Children's Liturgy

On Friday, December 24th this year we will continue to celebrate Jesus' nativity with a 4 PM family worship/children friendly service. This service will offer Christmas carols, a children's homily, the placement of the creche figures, and Holy Eucharist. Worship will take place in person in our nave and as well as on Zoom.

Lessons and Carols Service

On Friday, December 24th we will have an 8 PM Christmas Lessons and Carols service in person in our nave with 5 readings, carols, and numerous musical offerings, hymns, and sung prayers that will include organ, piano, small vocal ensembles, and choral work. This service will focus on the

retelling of Christ's birth, but will not include a sermon or Holy Eucharist. A Zoom link will also be available for this service.

Christmas Day Worship

On Saturday, December 25th at 9:30 AM we will offer a Zoom ONLY service for all to attend virtually. This service will be streamed from our nave where our staff will be present to lead a Morning Prayer service with music, worship, and a sermon. Enjoy from the comfort of your own home.

Sunday Morning After Christmas Service

On Sunday, December 26th at 9:30 we will offer both in person worship (again with a Zoom link!) for everyone. At this service Holy Eucharist will be offered, as will Drive By Eucharist following the liturgy.

Whether you stay put during the holidays or travel, we hope you will join our Grace Episcopal Church parish family to give thanks for the gift of Christ on earth.

The Mitten Tree

Thanks to donations from so many of you, the Outreach Committee has purchased \$75 Target gift cards for 125 children in Manchester public schools.

Please continue to bring in warm hats and mittens. They can be placed on the tree at the back of the church sanctuary until Sunday, December 19.

Thanks again for your help with this project.

The Outreach Committee

Yard Work

There are different approaches to yard maintenance and appearance. Some people want a yard that has everything in a certain, precise way. I can see pluses and minuses with that perspective. A plus is that you always know exactly what to expect, both in terms of effort and appearance. Yards like that can be impressively attractive, and give a sense that everything is under control. But keeping it that way takes a fair amount of effort, including cutting grass, pulling weeds, and pruning shrubs and trees. I, on the other hand, would prefer to leave the development of the yard/landscape up to the team of Mother Nature and Father Time.



I sometimes feel like I have limited control of our yard, but the up-side is the

occasional surprise we get. One year we got a flowering quince, which was probably a gift from a bird that had eaten the seeds from someone else's quince and left the droppings in our yard. It was "planted" next to one of our yard's walking paths, so we see it often.

Another test which turned into a gift was a form of myrtle which is a type of ground cover. We had a few small patches of it in our yard, so we thought we might try putting some in a spot that was very shady with almost no sun. The myrtle took hold and expanded significantly. It now covers a patch about 30 or 40 feet across.

Another interesting challenge for us can be deciding where to walk. Sometimes we will go on what has been a clear path only to discover that there is something new growing in the space of former footprints. If it looks promising and we don't want to disturb it, we change our route slightly and leave the plant. The route is no longer quite as straight, but now we have a nice plant, so it is worth the diversion.

We stopped grass mowing because tree roots got in the way. Over the years, the roots got thicker and some began to sit on top of the ground. As of today, the tops of many roots are from 2 to 6 inches above ground level. Another interesting side effect is that the grass in that back area just petered out. It has been a couple of years since we have had enough grass to actually mow it. Moss, myrtle, and other ground covers are taking its place.

We have several blueberry plants, which are scattered in different places around our yard. They typically produce fruit just after we leave for our summer travel trip. They bloom and fruit and the birds feast. Even if we are home when the blueberries bear fruit, the birds still get to them before we do.

In one corner of the back yard, we had a patch of strawberries that grew well, bore fruit, and we enjoyed it. While we were gone on a trip, our friend's son mowed our lawn, and mowed the strawberries, which had finished and fruit was gone. When we got back, we saw the strawberries had been mowed accidentally. The mistake actually turned out well because mowing the strawberries actually makes them grow back stronger the next year.

Our yard is clearly a work in progress with an added side benefit of education.

(NOTE: We got the team name of Mother Nature and Father Time from a National Park site we visited. In a Ranger talk, it was stated that the formations inside the cave were produced by Mother Nature and Father Time.)

Dick Feren

All Saints' Day 2021

We are grateful for all the Grace Church saints who continue to help make Sunday worship happen: Altar Guild, Drive-By Eucharist leaders, amazing musicians and choir, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Ushers, parish clergy and staff, Zoom room leaders, parish photographers. We are able to celebrate and pray because of you!



New Altar Guild Members Celebrated

Our parish continues to be blessed by the dedication, devotion, and leadership of Linn Krikorian and Michael Duffy. Special thanks to both of them for training the power of three holy leaders who just joined our parish's Altar Guild: Andrew Freshour, Maureen Thomas, and Barnaby Thomas.

We are ever grateful for these five leaders who continue to prepare and care for God's altar at Grace Church both before and after in person worship.

A Collect for Those Who Serve on Altar Guilds:

Almighty God, grant we beseech thee, that we may handle holy things with reverence, and perform our work with such faithfulness and devotion that it may rise with acceptance before thee and obtain thy blessing; through Christ our Lord. AMEN



Diocesan Convention 2021

The Episcopal Church in New Hampshire gathered virtually for its 219th annual convention on November 5th and 6th. Grace was well represented by Ed Doyle, Julie Scala, Ann Hewins, Shelley Kesselman, Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Jane Van Zandt, Mike Andres, and Allan Knight.



In keeping with our theme of “Deep Roots, New Life” guest preacher, The Rev. Katie Nakimura Rengers spoke on Friday night of how ministry can take new and unexpected forms and still realize God’s dream for the world and meet human need as effectively as the more familiar, traditional forms, and in many cases, more effectively. Our call, therefore, is to agile ways of doing and being Church that meet the needs of the world we live in, rather than clinging stubbornly to old ways that aren’t meeting the real needs of today. Bishop Rob Hirschfeld echoed the same sentiments in his address to the convention on Saturday,

The convention passed the budget resolution that authorized cost of living and merit increases for clergy and diocesan staff in recognition of current economic conditions and their outstanding service in the past two years of being Church in time of pandemic. Although we are having to rely on our

reserve funds given the overall circumstances, we are doing so appropriately, as reserve funds are intended for leaner times such as this. We are overall managing our funds well. While we are spending more in some categories, we are spending less in others, and the net result is a budget that is not appreciably different than it has been in recent years.

The convention passed Resolution 1 which approved the use of language that would address nonconforming congregations in the diocese that do not fit the criteria for either traditional missions or parishes. The idea is that expanding language will enable us to give these congregations full voice and vote to have canonical parity with the missions and parishes throughout the diocese.

Resolution 2, which would have made the clergy and lay co-conveners of the convocations members of the diocesan council. The hope was that communication between the council and the convocations would be facilitated, but the prevailing sense was that while there are problems with facilitating communication between the Council and convocations, this may not be the best way to fix it. There was concern that it would restrict the number of people who would be taking a leadership role in the diocese, and that it would be a burden to our convocation co-conveners. There was a strong sense that we would do well to clarify the roles of the co-conveners as they are currently defined and be diligent about fulfilling them in the current structure rather than making changes. The resolution did not pass, but the conversation about how to best facilitate communication between diocesan council and the convocations will continue. (Your Southern Convocation co-conveners, Shelley Kesselman and The Rev. Greg Baker are already in conversation about how our Convocation can make relatively simple changes within the existing canonical structure to create better bidirectional dialogue between our council reps and the Convocation, and in turn with the parishioners)

It was a good convention in that we said our prayers and did our business with love, integrity, and gratitude for being able to get together to carry on our work even as the pandemic continues. We had robust, honest, and respectful conversations in which we disagreed without being at all disagreeable, and received what others had to say with open hearts and minds. We were invited to go into and come away from this gathering contemplating the idea of how new ideas come from deep roots, what it means to cast off the grave clothes of doing and being Church in the manner of Lazarus, and what the “mustard seed” of our common life is - that fundamental thing, small though it may be, from which everything else springs.

And for all that happy, holy work, it would be dishonest to say that we didn't miss being together in person. We missed breaking bread and making merry the night before. We missed the Convention Eucharist in which many parishes contribute something of theirs to make something of ours that is powerful, in-

spiring and affirmative of our longstanding understanding of ourselves as one church doing God’s work in almost fifty congregations. We missed the hugs and handshakes. But this is where our theme served us well - from the deep roots of what has been, and what we value will spring something new as we faithfully tend the beloved vine of the Episcopal Church in New Hampshire.

Shelley Kesselman

Fall Parish Cleanup Day



Ataxia Update

Money Buys Research - Research Finds Results! Our thanks to everyone who has supported us as we help The National Ataxia Foundation whose mission is: 'To accelerate the development of treatments and find a cure while working to improve the lives of those living with Ataxia'.

We are very close to reaching our goal. If you are able to support NAF's mission at this time and support our efforts by making a donation please go to our page here: <https://igfn.us/vf/NAFLIVE/JillPorter>

If you prefer to donate by check please do so by making your check payable to NAF and give it or mail it to Jill. Thanks for taking a moment to check it out and for caring about us as we continue along our journey. We look forward to your support, whatever that may be. May you find peace and joy in this Advent season.

Jill & Ken

New Book by Ernesto Burden

Congratulations to Ernesto Burden on the publication of his second book, *Slate*. Ernesto will be discussing his new novel at the Bookery on December 2nd from 5:30 to 6:30 PM.

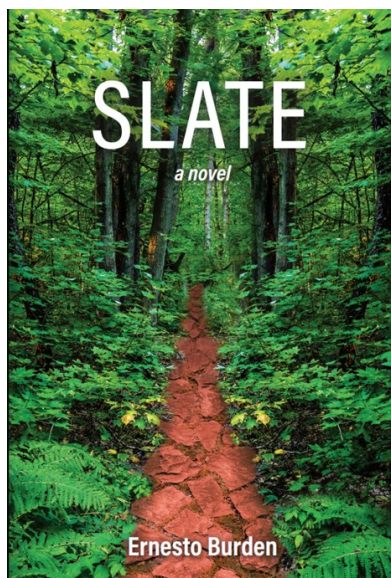
About the book :

When Mike Clayton hears his father's voice on the answering machine saying 'I'm dying, I need you,' he knows his life is about to change. The ensuing journey from his high life in 1990s Boston to his childhood home in timeless small-town Vermont becomes an odyssey into the mortal mysteries of home, family and interdependence.

"Ernesto Burden's *Slate* weaves a satisfying storyline with dialogue that casts its spell on the very first page, but the book's true gift is a cast of characters who will remain alive and conversant in the reader's mind long after the last chapter has been consumed.

"Absorbing and thought-provoking. One of my favorite books of the year."

—Rick Broussard, editor, *New Hampshire Magazine*



“The setting (past and present) and the intertwined fates of characters make for a story told with intelligence, subtle humor, and attention sufficient to allow for the full, nuanced development of Ernesto Burden’s characters and themes. The area around Rutland, VT, is part of Burden’s own past, and his novel reminds us of what William Kennedy (whose fictional world is not far over the Taconic Range in Albany, NY) said of a writer’s duty: ‘One of my deepest beliefs about fiction is that unless you understand the environment in which the human soul flourishes, wanes, and dies, then you have very little to work with.’ If Albany was Kennedy’s Dublin and his Yoknapatawpha, the land between Dorset and Rutland, Vermont, is now Ernesto Burden’s. It’s a damn fine piece of work.”

—Robert Begiebing, author of *Rebecca Wentworth’s Dis-traction*, winner of the Langum Prize for Historical Fiction

“Slate is my kind of book, a strong character-based story, with vivid images of the New England town, landscape, and history, but what I liked best was Burden’s clear and economical prose style that occasionally breaks out into literary music: ‘The street ran at its usual leisurely briskly intent Calvinist pace . . . Unis’ long, equine face was animated by a vehement sense of propriety . . . her smile was as pointed as an icicle.’”

—Ernest Hebert, author of the *Darby Chronicles* from Wesleyan University Press and a new novel, *Whirlybird Island*, a literary murder mystery from Plaidswede Publishing

The book can be found at the Bookery or ordered here:

<https://www.nhbooksellers.com/product-page/slate>

Congratulations Julie and Chris

Congratulations to former GEC parishioner, the Reverend Christopher Potter (Episcopal deacon) who was elected in the recent Manchester city elections to the Manchester Board of School Committee for Ward 7.

Congratulations also to Julie Turner, GEC parishioner, who was also elected in the recent Manchester city elections to the Manchester Board of School Committee for Ward 1.

Blessings and success to both of them as they lead and guide within our city.

**The NEW HAMPSHIRE
GAY MEN'S CHORUS**

2021 Holiday Concert Series

*It's the Most
Wonderful Time
of the Year*

Saturday, December 4, 2021 at 7:30 pm
in Londonderry, New Hampshire

Sunday, December 5, 2021 at 4:00 pm
in Concord, New Hampshire

Saturday, December 11, 2021 at 7:30 pm
in Newington, New Hampshire

Sunday, December 12, 2021 at 4:00 pm
in Manchester, New Hampshire

Advance ticket sales strongly recommended.
For tickets, locations, and more info:

 **nhgmc.com**

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A Heartfelt Thank You Letter from Hank Gagnon

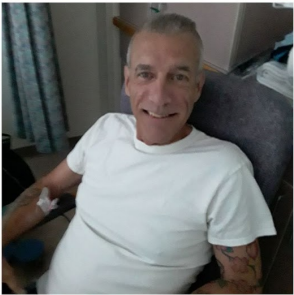
Dear Grace Church Family,

I want to personally thank you for all of your love and support during the time of Greg's illness and death. It meant so much for both of us. All the prayers, visits, texts, phone calls, floral arrangements, desserts, dinners, and

so many other ways that so many people showed us love and support when we needed it the most. To all those who have chosen to remain anonymous who donated to the discretionary fund, helped pay for Greg's funeral, and who covered our rent for three months, I can't tell you how much that helped. I wish I could thank you face to face but know that you are in my heart.

Thank you to everyone who participated in my beloved husband Gregory's funeral: Reverend Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Father Allan Knight, Reverend Jane Van Zandt, and all the readers, singers, and pallbearers. Everyone, thank you for doing him such honor and making it a memorable service.

Grace Church sexton Emery Freethey, thank you for getting the church ready. Thank you Parish Administrator Marlene Thompson and Assistant



Administrator Lyn Marino for your hard work in getting the bulletin put together. Linda Garrish Thomas, thank you for the beautiful poem you wrote about Gregory. Tommy Suckley Jr., you did such a fantastic job as an acolyte during Greg's funeral. He would have been very proud of you!!

To our warden Amy Brumfield, who watches over and administers our virtual worship, and our on site tech deacon Shelley Kesselman who helped make the Zoom coverage of Gregory's funeral available for friends and family who couldn't be there, thank you. For bagpiper, Patrick Cheetham, thank you for doing such an outstanding job at both the church and graveside. Finally, a second thank you to Shelley Kesselman, who offered a eulogy and prayers for Gregory at a recent diocesan Southern Convocation gathering.

Gregory and I truly love every one of you. Gregory showed us all how to die with dignity, grace, and style.

Peace, love and respect,
Hank Gagnon

A Note from Warren Koch

On behalf of my dad Warren Koch I want to thank the dozens of you who marked his 98th birthday with a special card. He was very moved to have been remembered. When I finished reading all the cards to him he said, "that was beautiful!" Thank you so much for your thoughtfulness.

Barbara Koch Hickok

Congratulations to Ken and Nicole Grinnell

Congratulations to Ken and Nicole Grinnell who celebrate 45 years of wedded bliss on Saturday, November 27th, 2021.

Here they are, pictured outside Marsh Chapel at Boston University following their wedding on November 27th, 1976. The officiant was the Reverend Dr. David P. Jenkins, former Rector of Ken's home church, St. Paul's, Portsmouth, Rhode Island.



Congratulations Quinn Turner

Congratulations to parishioner Quinn Turner for her diligence, steady training, and persistence in helping Hillside Middle School capture the Manchester Middle School girls' cross country championship. Go Quinn!!!

All Souls' Day

Grateful children of all ages from our Grace Church family celebrated All Souls' Day this year.



Milestones

Happy Birthday to the following December and January birthday celebrants!

December

- 4 Justin Posnanski
Ann ORourke
- 5 Cheryl Thomas
- 10 Charlie Woodbury
- 11 Caroline Stenbeck
- 13 Bernie Tonnar
- 14 Miclena Linares
Gray Chynoweth
- 16 Michelle Garneau
- 21 Kathie-Ann Day
Nancy Girus
- 23 Liz Jestude
- 25 Kelly Farragher-Paras
- 27 Carol Cote

January

- 3 Carolyn Richmond
- 9 Kaydance Lassonde
- 14 Leona Thomas
- 18 Ken Porter
- 24 Betty Arel
Brooks Stantial
- 25 Hank Gagnon
- 27 Linda Jacobson
- 28 Mary Blevens
- 29 Nancy-Ann Feren
Charles White
- 30 Melissa Roy
James Fox

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, page 830

Vestry Meeting

Wednesday, October 20, 2021

Present: Valerie Anderson, Gail Austin, Amy Brumfield, Carol Cote, Hank Gagnon, Nancy Johnson, Ken Kjellander, Christopher Messier, Gail Schuman, the Reverend Dr. Marjorie Ann Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Barnaby Thomas, Chris Turner

Excused Absences: Teddi McIntosh, David Roy, Meghann White

This meeting was conducted via Zoom. Rev. Marjorie opened the meeting at 7:02 PM with a prayer. We continued with the reading of the Norms.

VOTE: A motion to accept the reports with a consent agenda vote was made by Gail S, seconded by Barnaby, and was carried. The reports included are Vestry Meeting (Sept-2021), Rector's Report (Sept/Oct 2021), Property Report (Oct-2021), Planning and Finance (Oct-2021), and stewardship Report (Sept-2021).

Gail A. presented the September financials noting that the pledge receipts are down 17% from budget, the Endowment Fund Bank balance is \$88.4K, The Operating Fund cash balance is \$14.9K (\$73.5K in checks was paid on Oct.1).

VOTE: A motion was made by Hank, seconded by Valerie to accept the September Financial Report. The motion carried.

Gail has given Scott Eagan (the auditor) information about our fixed assets to allow him to give an unqualified opinion for our financial audit. She then presented her first draft for the 2022 proposed budget. She noted that we are short and suggested three areas where we could make some adjustments. They are the nursery, salaries, and maintenance and utilities. She will attend the next Property meeting to present this budget for their input.

VOTE: A motion to make a one time transfer of \$2000 from the Rector Discretionary fund to the Rector Discretionary Bank Account was made by Gail S and seconded by Carol which carried.

Amy reported that a performance evaluation for 2021 will be done for all staff members. Research is continuing for the bookkeeper position and outside accounting vendor.

The Stewardship Committee has sent out the stewardship letter to the parishioners. Two speakers will speak in two of the October services.

The Nomination Committee is composed of Linda Heath, Ann Hewins, Dwight Simmons, and Rev. Marjorie.

VOTE: Gail S. moved to approve the renewal applications for Eucharistic Ministers for the following:

Shelley Kesselman Eucharistic Minister, Worship Leader, Eucharistic Visitor; Linnell Krikorian. Eucharistic Minister, Worship Leader; Jill Porter Eucharistic Minister; Thomas E. Suckley III. Eucharistic Minister. The motion was seconded by Carol and approved by the Vestry.

Rev. Marjorie met with the Music Team to plan out the Christmas services as follows:

- 12/24 @ 4 o'clock – Family service – full eucharist with sermon. (in person and Zoom)
- 12/24 @ 8 o'clock – Lessons and Carols – (in person and Zoom)
- 12/25 @9:30 – staff only in church- morning prayer (Zoom only)
- 12/26 @9:30 – regular Sunday service (in person and Zoom)

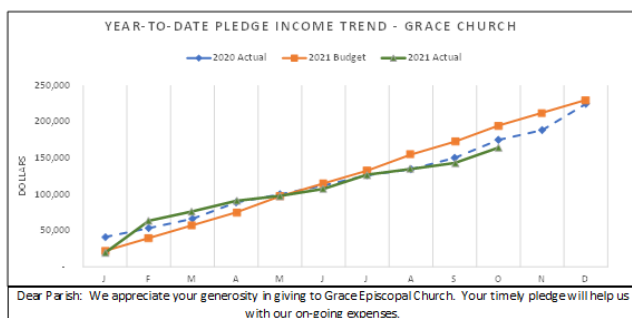
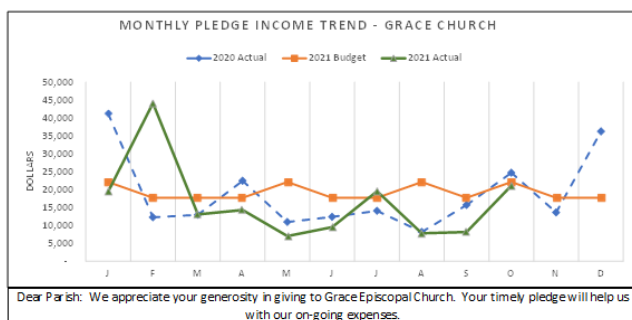
We do not have a date for the installation of the gates. There is a leaky toilet on the second floor of Grace House.

Deacon Michael Andres has been assigned to go to St. Paul in Concord. He will stay with us through November 14th.

The meeting was concluded at 8:20PM

The next Vestry meeting November 17th.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Johnson, Clerk



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Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Marjorie Gerbracht-Stagnaro, Rector

Vestry

Amy Brumfield, Warden
Christopher Messier, Warden
Nancy Johnson, Clerk
Gail Austin, Treasurer
David Roy, Assistant Treasurer

Valerie Anderson, Carol Cote, Hank Gagnon, Ken Kjellander,
Teddi McIntosh, Gail Schuman, Barnaby Thomas,
Chris Turner, Meghann White

Staff

Mark Cleveland, Director of Music
Ken Grinnell, Organist
Carter Beck, Organist
Marlene Thompson, Parish Administrator
Lyn Marino, Assistant Parish Administrator
Emery Freethey, Sexton
Susan Senneville, Nursery Care Giver
Ann Hewins, Grace House Manager

Newsletter

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Cover Illustration

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Next Newsletter Deadline

January 22, 2022